



Connecticut Affiliate
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458

Testimony of Anne Morris to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
SB 458
Insurance and Real Estate Public Hearing
February 3, 2009
Legislative Office Building, Hartford

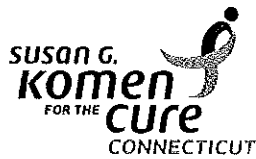
Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and committee members. My name is Anne Morris and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Susan G. Komen for the Cure® is the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists. Susan G. Komen for the Cure, with its Affiliates, has raised nearly \$1 billion to support breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment. In Connecticut, over \$18 million has been awarded to Connecticut based organizations.

I am here this evening to speak in support of SB 458 requiring communication of mammographic breast density information to patients.

Studies have shown that as breast density increases, so does the risk of breast cancer. Breast density refers to the proportions of fat and tissue in the breasts when viewed on a mammogram. Low breast density mean that there is a greater proportion of fat than tissue. Women with very dense breasts - as seen on a mammogram - are four to five times more likely to develop breast cancer than women with low density breasts.¹

In 2005 legislation was passed in Connecticut that mandated coverage for ultrasounds for women whose mammograms identified them as having dense breasts. The problem that still exists is that many women never learn that their mammogram has shown that they have dense breast tissue.

Three simple steps to early detection are regular mammograms, clinical exams and breast self-exams.



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We know that early detection is the key to survival. We have the ability to perform more accurate screenings for women with dense breasts. Why wouldn't we ensure that they are told of their increased risk – for some women it's a matter of life and death.

¹ Tamimi RM, Byrne C, Colditz GA, Hankinson SE. Endogenous hormone levels, mammographic density, and subsequent risk of breast cancer in postmenopausal women. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 99(15):1178-87, 2007. Boyd NF, Guo H, Martin LJ, et al. Mammographic density and the risk and detection of breast cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 356(3):227-36, 2007.

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